



## Court Appointed Special Advocates

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### A Message from....

Dr. William Fulton, Value Options

### Current Research in Attachment Theory

Despite the general level of education and awareness in the mental health community regarding attachment and early development, there has been little actual research on attachment dysfunction and attachment disorders. This problem is due in part to ethical constraints and experimental design with infant subjects. It has been difficult to obtain 'naturalistic' situations with sufficient research subjects to remedy this inability to perform clinical research.

#### Study Reviews Records of Romanian Children

Recently, such a situation has presented itself and is reported in the June 2000 issue of the American Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. O'Connor, Rutter, and the English and Romanian Adoptees Study Team have had the opportunity to study 217 children at six years of age who were all placed into adoption before 24 months. Records were available for review from birth for all these children, and the adoptive parents and children were studied in the present through clinical interviews and standardized assessment. This study is the largest single study of the effects of early deprivation to date. (There is general agreement that pathogenic parental care is the etiology of attachment dysfunction).

In this study, the Romanian children experienced severe early deprivation. These children were compared to the English children who were not severely deprived. When these same two groups were studied at 4 years of age, there was a linear correlation between duration of deprivation and the frequency of attachment disorder behaviors. However, many children who had experienced severe deprivation did not show these behaviors at all.

#### Results of Study

When these children were restudied at 6 years of age, attachment dysfunction was considered present if the child did not differentiate caregivers from other adults, if the child would go readily with a stranger, if the child would not check back with a parent when expected to do so, and if the child would indicate distress but not come to the parent for comfort.

The current research study found that if a child displayed attachment dysfunction, that dysfunction remained stable over a several year period despite consistency in the same foster home with no further changes in caregivers. Though a child may have experienced profound deprivation for the first two years of life, that child had only a 30% chance of developing a severe attachment disorder.

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"Clinicians, foster families, courts, and school professionals who regularly see children with attachment dysfunction should underscore the importance of maintaining stability in the lives of these children."

...Dr. William Fulton

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# Guns and Children in America in the Year 2000

.....by Marilyn Priebe

Many of us have the luxury of remembering a time when the threat of gun violence was not even a consideration as we left our homes for work and school.

For today's children, that luxury can never be experienced. Our CASA children, many of whom live and attend schools in less affluent neighborhoods (although this is not a total safety net as witnessed by Columbine High School parents) are more likely to be confronted with a situation involving handguns.

## Gun Violence Has Hit Epidemic Proportions

Since 1979, more than **80,000** American children and adolescents have been killed by guns, according to the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). To bring that into perspective, that is more than all Americans lost in the Korean and Vietnam wars.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta has gathered statistics showing that 12 times as many American children under the age 15 die from gunfire -- that's comparing the top 25 other wealthy, industrialized countries.....approximately **4,000** youngsters fatally shot each year.

In addition to random violence, the U.S. Department of Justice figures state that 12-17 year old juveniles are twice as likely to be victims of assault, and they are more likely to be killed by family members, friends, neighbors, or people they have at least met.

These facts added to the horrific statistic of 17,000 people wounded by gunfire each year, has made gun control a volatile yet critical and pertinent issue.



Superior Court files are replete with examples of children being caught up in domestic violence disputes. If either parent has a gun, the risk to the child escalates. Homes with guns have nearly five times as many homicides and nearly

three times as many suicides as homes without guns.

## What Can You Do?

As an advocate for the best interests of your CASA child, there are things that you can do to help insure their safety. You can speak to the foster parents and to your CASAs parents, especially if the case plan is reunification. You can ask if they have guns in the house and if they do, are the guns under lock and key. You can encourage them to speak to the child(ren) about gun safety.

Remembering that our goal is to change the system one child at a time, you can also talk with your CASA child(ren) yourself, especially if they are school age, about the dangers of handling guns and what to do if they come in contact with someone who has a handgun.

You may also choose to support the Child Injury Prevention Act, H.R. 515 which requires that all new handguns come with a safety discharge lock. It also, among other things, requires that handguns be accompanied by a warning that meets well-established criteria for warning labels, alerting buyers to the hazards that handguns pose to children. If this interests you, you may call Caroline Leedy at the Violence Policy Center for more information. 202-822-8200

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Therefore, this severe early deprivation is not a sufficient condition alone for the development of an attachment disorder. The researchers were unable to identify factors that seemed protective for children who experienced severe deprivation but did not develop an attachment disorder. On the other hand, a few children developed severe attachment disorders after only a few months of severe deprivation rather than the full two years.

## Importance of Maintaining Stability Stressed

In summary, the authors suggest that clinicians, foster families, courts, and school professionals who regularly see children with attachment dysfunction underscore the importance of maintaining stability in the lives of these children as this study exhibits that even under the best of placement circumstances the attachment dysfunction remains stable but does not seem to worsen.

# Over 1400 CASAs Converge on Nation's Capitol

...by La Donna Moss

Nancy Molever, June Anderson and I arrived in our nation's capitol on Saturday afternoon anticipating the enjoyment of cooler weather and a great conference. We were not disappointed.

This being the first time I had visited Washington, there was so much history to experience that we headed out as soon as we checked into our hotel. The afternoon was spent strolling along the Capitol Mall, visiting the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, listening to the multicultural sounds of a folk festival while enjoying the aromas of ethnic and international cuisine. Have you ever tasted Ethiopian food -- Mmmmmm, good!

The actual conference started Sunday morning where I attended a workshop about fund raising which gave me tips on how to use 'point of contact' strategies to get people interested in volunteering.

The workshop that I enjoyed most was PR and Media Attention where I learned what worked for CASA organizations in other areas of the country, including how to better utilize and take advantage of free media outlets.

One of the most interesting panel discussions was facilitated by Ray Suarez, the former host of 'Talk of the Nation' and now an anchor on the 'Newshour' on PBS. The current trends and statistics regarding child welfare were discussed. For example, did you know that a child in foster care is 67 times more likely to be involved in criminal activity.

All during the conference we were interacting and talking with other CASAs. One CASA volunteer from

Louisiana gasped when she found out our Arizona CASA program is funded by the Arizona State Lottery. She made plans to return home armed with this information to lobby for Louisiana lottery funds.

Nancy found meeting and speaking with other CASA program managers, volunteers, and coordinators very uplifting and exciting and shared her feelings of passion and commitment for abused kids.

On Monday, evening, we took a guided tour of the Washington area where we saw the Vietnam War Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, the FBI and the Kennedy Center. (We even saw the President's helicopter ready to lift off from the White House lawn.)

Another high point was our trip to Congress on

Tuesday where we and Judge Portley were able to communicate our CASA needs to our respective senators and representatives on Capitol Hill.

Nancy visited Senator John Kyle's office and felt strongly that she could personally help make a difference at the national level by educating people (like Senator John Kyl's office) about CASA. She asked for funding support (\$12 million budget for 2001) for CASA and, in addition, support to pass legislation to strengthen abuse and neglect courts using Title IV-E funds.

Needless to say, I left the conference on fire and inspired and to work even harder for the abused and neglected kids of Arizona.

I look forward to next conference and hope you will all consider attending. It will be in Minneapolis, Minnesota on May 20-21, 2001.



**MADE OF CLAY STUDIO** of Scottsdale welcomed 4 CASA volunteers, Debbie Egan, Nat Hathaway, Patty Duran and Ashley Lies and 6



CASA kids for the June 3 pottery painting event which included a catered lunch, cookies and lemonade. The studio was noisy as the kids chose their pottery pieces and prepared to have lunch. As they selected ceramic footballs, frames, animal figures, and paints, the excitement grew. Once the actual painting began, the kids became quiet and focused on their projects - intensely painting for over an hour. It was great to see how involved they became and how proud they were of their work. Even a few volunteers painted! The CASA volunteers picked up the fired finished pieces and delivered them to their kids who were all waiting with great anticipation for their 'masterpieces'! Thank you Made of Clay for your generosity for hosting these CASA kids for free. A great time was had by all!

## Backpacks!

School will be starting in just a few weeks and we still have a few dozen backpacks left to give to our CASA children. If your CASA child needs one, please call your Coordinator and arrange to pick one up.

Thank you Kappa Alpha Theta for your donation of 300 backpacks for Arizona's CASA children.



## POOL SAFETY NOTICE



CASA'S are reminded that ADES has a very strict, specific guideline regarding swimming pool safety.

**No CASA child who is under the supervision of ADES is allowed in unfenced pool areas.**

Remember, you must discuss with your Coordinator any plans to bring your child to your home or someone else's home for any reason.



# Volunteer Profile

## MARY ANN STANTON

Mary Ann has been assigned to her case since April, 1997. In a case that has seen 6 case managers, she has remained very involved and a constant presence in the lives of these children.

There are five children in this case and according to Mary Ann, "these kids are extremely special. They have had so much turmoil in their lives but remain very fine kids."

During the course of Mary Ann's early work on this case, she has been instrumental in obtaining PhD level therapy for one of the children as ordered by the Court, obtained counseling for another child and worked to gain advancement of a very bright sibling to a higher grade level.

Three of the children are happily in permanent placements now, thanks in large part to Mary Ann's efforts. She remains very involved in the lives of the other two children, ensuring that among other things, their educational needs are addressed and that appropriate counseling is provided and that visitations take place as scheduled.

She frequently takes them to movies and outings and a commendation from Judge Pro Tem Hoffman reads, "the Court commends the CASA who has done an excellent job in this matter and who has greatly contributed to the

quality of life for these children."

She also has remained in steady contact with the biological mother and supervises the monthly visits between Mom and the 2 oldest kids.

Mary Ann takes her program responsibilities just as seriously by keeping her contact logs current, her ongoing training current, submitting Court reports timely and she attends all hearings and reviews pertaining to her case. She has been a presenter at OT and to quote Nancy Molever, "Mary Ann Stanton really puts a face on all the statistics and humanizes CASA work."

Mary Ann has been married for 35 years and has four children and a cat who she says is the real head of the household. She is very proud of her children, one of whom is a city councilman, one is an assistant high school principal, one daughter works in promotions for Channel 15 and her other daughter teaches special education classes. She is an avid walker, loves to garden, read and attend Arts presentations of all kinds, including movies, theater and the symphony.

It is no surprise to hear Mary Ann's feelings about her CASA involvement - "Next to parenthood, this advocacy has been the greatest learning experience in my life."



**Ray Bloyd** has been commended by the FCRB for his advocacy in his CASA child's best interest.

**Georgia Clubb** has been highly commended by the FCRB for her efforts for her CASA children after being assigned to the case for such a short period of time.

**Ralph Corson** has been commended by the FCRB for his efforts on behalf of his CASA children in the short time he has been assigned to the case.

**Ann Fitzgerald** has been commended by the attorney for the CASA mother for writing such a thorough court report.

**Leslie Jones** has been commended by the Court her report which included a number of photos of her CASA child.

**James Lee and Claudia Noye** have both been commended by the FCRB for their positive influence and efforts on behalf of their Casa children's life.

**Eileen McHale** has been commended by the CPS Case Manager at the FCRB hearing for her dedication.

**Betty Oves** has been commended by the FCRB for actively advocating for her child's best interest..

**Lynda Pederson** has been commended by the FCRB for her continued support of her CASA children and the vital role she has played in advocating for their best interests.

**Marilyn Priebe** was commended in a letter to the FCRB by the CPS case supervisor, for doing a remarkable job on her case.

**Melanie Turrell and Carolyn Ford** were both commended by Judge Bayham-Lessolyong for their thorough and helpful court reports.

**Teri Werner** has been commended by the FCRB for her consistent effort for 2.5 years on behalf of her CASA children.



|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| LaRose Hand        | Mary Ann Stringer |
| Mary Alice Aguilar | Lori Sipple       |
| Nick Nichols       | Patricia Cohen    |
| Janet Oitzman      | Beverly Burch     |
| Joyce Herron       | Margaret Walters  |
| Jean Davis         | Delores Holden    |
| Angela Barriga     | Frances Dismon    |

## Farewell

And thank you for all you have done for Arizona's children:

Nancy Bowman  
Mikayla Baily-Null  
Lynzie Euchner  
Monica Rodarte



# TRAINING

## CASA SPONSORED TRAINING

**Orientation Training**, September 8, 9; Friday and Saturday, 9:00 - 4:30 p.m. Lunch is served. Two days of orientation for new CASAs. Training will be held at the Administrative Office of the Courts, 1501 W. Washington. If you know someone who would like to be a volunteer, please ask them to call the CASA office at 602-506-4083 to begin the screening process.

**Year 2000 Annual CASA Training**, October 21, Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Various subjects pertinent to CASA cases. Fulfills yearly 6 hours training requirement for CASAs. Free. Continental Breakfast and Lunch will be served. Call 602 506-4083 to register.

## COMMUNITY SPONSORED TRAINING

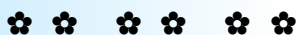
**Schools Without Risk**, September 18 & 19. Two days of up-to-the-minute findings, strategies and programs focused on creating safe schools and preventing juvenile deviant behavior and violence. \$495 fee includes two days of training, workbook, continental breakfast and lunch for two days. Call 1-800-863-5726 for information and location.

**Thanatology in 2000** - Monday, November 6, 9-5, Chandler Police Department - Grief training, including children's reactions to crises, gender differences, and working with peripheral families. \$40.00 Call 623 979-1000 for more information.

Congratulations are in order for two of our favorite people.....



**CASA MelanieTurrell** has given birth to a beautiful baby boy. Durango Woods Turrell was born 7 weeks early, weighing 3 lbs. 13.4 oz. and he and his mother are doing well. Congratulations!



And we are very excited to announce that Coordinator, **Melissa Adomeit**, and her husband, Pete, are expecting their first child on November 3. She is feeling great and she plans, at this point, to take time off when the baby is born and then hopes to rejoin us.



If every CASA recruited just one more person, our CASA ranks would double.

Thanks to **MarieAnn Ballerino** for suggesting we develop a flyer with our phone number that could be torn off at the bottom of the page. Marilyn Priebe created it and we are working to get it on the CASA website so you can download it and distribute it around town at locations that promote community service announcements. Some CASAs have put it in the vestibule of their churches or clubhouse of their apartments/ condos where notices are posted.

If anyone else has fresh new ideas about recruiting, please call La Donna Moss at 602-506-3930.



The CASA application is now available online at:  
[www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov](http://www.superiorcourt.maricopa.gov)

## COMING EVENTS

**Arizona Council for CASA Second Annual Golf Tournament and Silent Auction**  
November 19, 2000



**CASA KIDS PICNIC**  
April, 2001

Look for Details in Coming Issues

*A \$500 donation was given to Arizona Council for CASA in June in memory of Kelly Eldridge, 43, who passed away May 24, 2000 after fighting a heroic battle against cancer. Kelly was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta whose national philanthropy is CASA and Kelly asked that contributions be made to CASA in her memory.*



## **CASA PROGRAM STAFF**

### **DURANGO**

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Nancy Molever       | 602.506.5221 |
| Leslie Blakley      | 602.506.4082 |
| Stephanie Culberson | 602.506.3934 |
| La Donna Moss       | 602.506.3930 |
| Esparanza Tavena    | 602.506.4083 |

### **MESA - (SEF)**

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Melissa Adomeit | 602.506.3935 |
| Katrisha Stuler | 602.506.3379 |

## **CASA VOLUNTEER MENTORS**

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| Angela Ashley    | 480 922.5760 |
| Beverly Burch    | 480 585.3042 |
| Anne Donahoe     | 480 948.8540 |
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| Jackie Flowers   | 602 265.3565 |
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